

If we love one another, God remains in us and his love is brought to perfection in us. - John 4:12



- 10/13 Development BBQ
11am-2pm School Field
- 10/15 End of Cookie Dough Sale
- 10/15 Read-a-thon begins
- 10/19 Picture Make Up Day
- 10/23 Add Pink to Uniform (Cancer Awareness) & Buck-a-Jeans Kinder Mission Sale
- 10/27 Damien Math Competition
- 10/29 End of Read-a-thon
- 10/31 Happy Halloween- Add Orange & Black to Uniform
- 11/1 All Saints' Day Mass
12:15pm
- 11/2 All School Mass, Flag, & Mass Dismissal

St. Joseph School Principal's Newsletter



Catholic Identity and Authenticity

Dear St. Joseph School Families,

Last week we celebrated a beautiful tradition in honor of the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi- the blessing of the animals. He is my favorite saint for many reasons, one of which is his well-known prayer which says, "Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love." A few days later, during this past Sunday's Gospel acclamation, we heard from the Gospel of John that we are called to love one another so that God's love can be fully realized and perfected in us. This theme of loving our neighbor is repeated over and over again in Jesus' message to us and is a cornerstone of our Catholic identity. Then there is the good ole' saying we tell our children, "Do as I say, not as I do," which contradicts the notion of living an authentic life. How many times do our actions contradict what we are called to do? Do our children see this contradiction in us?

When broadcasting companies run "junk food" ads during "healthy eating" cooking programs, it leads you to wonder if they care about the contradicting messages or if they don't care because the sponsor's money is more "authentic"? Were the sponsors trying to deliberately confuse the viewers by having their "junk food" mixed in with the "nutritious food"? Whichever way you choose to look at it, authenticity takes a big hit, as does credibility, integrity and honesty.

We, who are Christians, need to seek balance as we rove our critical eye. How much of a hit do our authenticity, credibility, integrity and honesty take when our roving critical eye fails to look inward. Most Christians would agree that the Sermon on the Mount is the "standout piece" of Jesus' preaching. When Jesus said, "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you" (Matthew 7:12), was he suggesting to us that we should not only try to see things from another's perspective but to evaluate what should be done if we were the other person?

The parable of the Good Samaritan is a story of compassion, generosity and sacrifice fulfilled by a cultural outcast, a Samaritan, and ignored by those who pretended to be "righteous", the priest and the Levite. The Samaritan gave of his money and time in his effort to address the needs of an unknown person in trouble, without any expectation of reward or repayment. He interrupted the "business" of his day to meet the desperate needs of a stranger. Jesus said, "Go and do likewise" (Luke 10:37).

Jesus' Sermon on the Mount also contains the famous challenge: "Love your enemies and pray for those who openly work against you" (Matt 5:44). St Peter, chosen to be the first Pope and so to represent Jesus, echoes the challenge when he writes, "Do not repay evil with evil, or insult with insult, but with blessing, for this is why you are called" (1 Peter 3:9).

So how does our roving critical eye see us in the light of the above three challenges? The Samaritan was the "real deal" or the "authentic person." He was one in his thoughts, feelings and actions; he didn't simply know the right thing to do or simply think about it – he did it! "Go and do likewise."

What an impact Christians could make collectively, if we responded positively to Jesus' challenges. What an impact we, as individuals, can make within our family, workplace, school and neighborhood. St Paul reminds us that the fruit of the Spirit is within us: "...love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control" (Gal. 5:22). And to be an authentic person you will also need some "nutritious food!"

Many blessings,
Mrs. Alamo-Ng



Thank you to the 8th class families for hosting a delicious and thoughtful faculty luncheon last week. It was lovely to enjoy the meal together.

Thank you to the parents and employees who help ensure our campus remains safe at all times. Please remember the parent code is only for access during ESC hours. All visitors must check in at the school office during the school day.

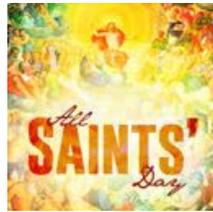
Thank you to our wonderful alumni who come to visit teachers, students and staff on their half days. We love seeing them and hearing what they are up to. It is a proud moment for SJU when we witness the amazing accomplishments and work they are doing in their communities.



Come Pray with Us



We pray the rosary **EVERY Tuesday & Thursday** in the amphitheater at **7:30am**. All are welcome to join us!



The school will celebrate Mass on **November 1st at 12:15pm** in the Church. It is a Holy Day of Obligation.

Our Community

Global Awareness



Sr. Lisa Pires, Presentation Sister, gave an informative talk to our 7th & 8th graders on how the organization Christian Peacemakers Team is working to improve the conditions of the people of Palestine. Sr. Lisa worked in the city of Hebron for over a year and is now working to bring awareness of the volatile situation there. If you are interested in learning more about what she witnessed in Palestine, please visit <https://www.cpt.org>.

Telling Our Story

We are working with a filming agency to capture the essence of St. Joseph School in a short film. Our students were excited to work with the crew and show them the wonderful experiences that make St. Joseph School special to all of us. We look forward to sharing it with the community soon!



CONGRATULATIONS to Yasmin Hernandez from the Class of 2018 for receiving an academic scholarship to Pomona Catholic. We wish her well in her freshman year!

GO VIKINGS! SJU Sports Corner

Our fall sports teams are in their final weeks of the season. They are going GREAT! We hope you can make it to Aquinas HS for one of the following games to help cheer our Vikings on!

Girls Varsity Volleyball

10/14 11:00am
10/27 8:00am
11/4 10:00am

Girls JV Volleyball

10/14 2:00pm (Green)
10/14 3:00pm (White)
10/27 3:00pm (Green)
10/27 4:00pm (White)
11/4 3:00pm (Green)
11/4 4:00pm (White)

Boys Varsity Football

10/14 9:00am
10/27 11:00am
11/4 9:00am

Boys JV Football

10/14 12:00pm
10/27 8:00am
11/4 10:00am



In the News

Talking to children about events in the news can be difficult and uncomfortable. Here is a helpful guide with tips for having conversations with younger and older children. <http://oldstmarys.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Talking-to-Kids-About-Event-in-the-News.pdf>. This resource has also been shared with the school staff.

St. Joseph School

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Our Mission Statement

St. Joseph School fosters Catholic values and invites students to a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. The school community educates the whole child to become a responsible and vibrant member of the Church and helps the students live their faith in a larger society.

